

ness of a court or d^eynasty refusing to abandon claims in the face of facts. The whole nation was equally infatuated. The Commons would not ask for peace. If it is good that Englishmen should 'never know when they are beaten,' that blissful state of ignorance has been sometimes attended by disadvantages of a serious character.

In November a Parliament was again summoned, this time co Northampton instead of Westminster. The floods were out and the 'perilous roads' belated the lords and the great trains of attendants that they brought with thorn. It was some days before enough had straggled in to allow the commencement of business. The Chancellor, Archbishop Sudbury, who had been ehoKon at the beginning of the year to put our lame finances on their feet, had to tell as wad a tale as ever.¹ The wages of the King's garrisons on the French coast were in arrear, and the troops on the point of deserting in consequence. The King was * outrageously indebted/ his jewels were in pawn, and on the point of being forfeited. It was, in fact, a wet, miserable Parliament. The members grumbled at their uncomfortable and ill-provisioned quartern in the strange midland town,² and gave vent to their temper in their policy. The Speaker declared for them that they wanted to know the exact sum necessary, and that it wan to be reduced as far as possible, because the people were * very poor and of feeble estate to bear any more burdens/ The King's ministers replied that 16Q,QOO/. would be needed. The Commons declared the sum to be outrageous and intolerable* After long deliberation they agreed that if the clergy would undertake to bear a third part of the charge, 100,000/. should be raised by a poll-tax. But two-thirds of that sum only should fall on the laity, for the clergy, they asserted, held a third part of the land of England.³ The feeling against the Church ran high. The Commons petitioned that all the fox'elgn monasteries should be instantly dissolved, and all foreign monks expelled,¹ This request was refused, but the poll-tax was accepted, and a promise was made by the Bishops that Convocation would do its duty in that matter. The clergy, *m* fact, soon after voted

* *Rot. Part., iil 88*

* *Wals*, L 440,*

* *Rot. Part., in. 89-00.*

⁴ *XUd* fii. 0^e pet 20.*